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**NEWS RELEASE**

# Judd Gregg



United States Senator for New Hampshire

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **GREGG APPLAUDS NEW ENGLAND EDUCATION GROUP EFFORT TO IMPROVE ASSESSMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY**

*Four New England states awarded federal grant to help improve quality of assessment instruments, systems used by states to measure achievement of students under NCLB Act*

WASHINGTON— U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, today congratulated New Hampshire and three other New England states, which have formed the New England Compact for testing, for being awarded an enhanced assessment grant. Using the new funds, the four states will work together to improve the assessment instruments and systems that are used by the states to measure the achievement of students under the No Child Left Behind Act. New Hampshire, along with Maine, Rhode Island and Vermont, have been working together for over a year to discuss how to best implement the assessment and accountability provisions in the No Child Left Behind Act so that parents, educators and policy makers have the best information available to support the efforts of schools to improve the academic achievement of all students. The U.S. Department of Education today awarded the consortium \$1,788,356 in federal funds for this project.

The Compact will draft common, priority standards from which to create a test blueprint. The states will then be able to compare progress across the states and combine resources to develop highest quality assessments. The states will also conduct a series of design experiments that focus on the impact of computer-based testing accommodations on the validity of test scores for students with and without special needs. Teachers will participate in the test design process. In addition, a group of teachers will be trained to provide professional development to teachers in their states on how to create and use assessments that are aligned to the state's academic standards to address the needs of proficient students and students who are at risk for academic failure.

Senator Gregg stated, "The innovative elements of the proposal combined with the ability to focus and leverage federal resources already directed toward the strengthening of assessment and accountability systems all make this an excellent project to fund. I am pleased that the Department of Education has provided the necessary resources for the work of the Compact to continue. This is an extraordinary example of a coordinated effort to make the reforms in this law work, and I applaud the innovation of New Hampshire and the other states for proactively working together for the betterment of all students."

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Nicholas C. Donohue, Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Education commented, “As a member of the Compact, New Hampshire is glad to receive this grant, as part of a four-state collaborative, because it will allow us develop an approach that permits us to learn from our closest neighbors, while at the same time to maintain the characteristics and concerns that are unique to New Hampshire as we implement the requirements of No Child Left Behind. We appreciate Senator Gregg’s leadership on this endeavor.”

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